

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /085 W

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R 191238Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2316

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBA OUWT

AMCONSUL CALUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15355

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IN, PFOR

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST FASCISM

1. PROPAGANDA AND PREPARATORY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN BUILDING UP FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS FOR THE "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST FASCISM" TO BE HELD IN PATNA, BIHAR, DECEMBER 4-8. THE INDIAN NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WAS ORGANIZED IN EARLY JUNE THIS YEAR, HEADED BY COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI) CHAIRMAN S.A. DANGE, BUT WITH A WIDE SCATTERING OF STATE CHIEF MINISTERS, UNION MINISTERS, HIGH COURT JUDGES, VICE-CHANCELLORS OF UNIVERSITIES, MPS, AND OTHERS AS MEMBERS. THE CPI CLEARLY INTENDED THE CONFERENCE TO BE A CENTER PIECE FOR ITS AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA IN INDIA FOR 1975 AND THE EVENTS SINCE THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA IN LATE JUNE HAVE INCREASED THE IMPORTANCE THE CPI SEEMS TO ATTACH TO THE MEETING.

2. THE GOI AND CONGRESS PARTY HAVE GONE ALONG WITH THE EXERCISE AND INDEED HAVE GIVEN IT STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT. THE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE SPOKEN AT SEVERAL OF THE STATE-LEVEL "ANTI-
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FASCIST" CONVENIONS, THE CONGRESS PARTY PRESIDENT AT MANY, AND VIRTUALLY ALL CABINET MINISTERS HAVE SPOKEN AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE HELD AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS. STATE CHIEF MINISTERS HAVE PLAYED LEADING ROLES IN EVERY STATE-LEVEL MEETING.

3. FOR CONGRESS AND THE GOI, THE KEY THEMES HAVE BEEN THE DANGER FROM THE DOMESTIC "RIGHT" AND "ANTI-DEMOCRATIC" ELEMENTS TO STABILITY AND PROGRESS IN INDIA, AND THE RELEVANCE OF THE PM'S DECISION TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO SAVE THE COUNTRY THIS SUMMER FROM THE HARBINGERS OF "FASCISM" IN INDIA. INTERLARDING IN SPEECHES AT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF STATE CONFERENCES HAVE BEEN REFERENCES TO THE CIA, THE "DESTABILIZATION", TO CHILE (AND MORE RECENTLY, TO BANGLADESH), TO DIEGO GARCIA, AND TO A RANGE OF OTHER THEMES WHICH HAVE A KNEE-JERK "ANTI-US" FLAVOR, EVEN THOUGH THE US IS NOT NECESSARILY MENTIONED BY NAME. CPI SPEAKERS AND CLOSE "FELLOW TRAVELLERS" HAVE BEEN LESS SENSITIVE IN DIRECTLY ATTACKING THE US IN THEIR ADDRESSES TO THESE FORUMS.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN OCTOBER BUT WAS POSTPONED UNTIL THE CURRENT DECEMBER DATES BECAUSE OF THE BIHAR FLOODS. THERE WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF FOREIGN VISITORS COMING FOR THE CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO THE CPI PRESS. WE DON'T HAVE A FULL LIST BUT THEY INCLUDE FORMER POLISH PREMIER CYRANKIEWICZ, MARK SOLOMON AND CARLETON GOODLETT FROM THE US, VOLODIA TEITELBOIM FROM CHILE, FATHER JOSE VILELA FROM BRAZIL, AND A WIDE SCATTERING OF NAMES LESS WIDELY KNOWN FROM THE PLO, PANAMA, LEBANON, BOLIVIA, FRANCE, BELGIUM, THE UK, GDR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND ELSEWHERE.

5. MRS GANDHI HAS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO ADDRESS THE OPENING SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND HER CONTINUING PARTICIPATION GUARANTEES WIDE PRESS COVERAGE. THE WHOLE EXERCISE APPEARS LIKELY TO TURN INTO ANOTHER "BAD SCENE" FOR THE US AND ITS POLICIES
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AND IS BEING CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED IN THIS DIRECTION BY THE CPI AND ITS FRIENDS WITH NO OBSTRUCTION FOR THE GOI.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, FASCISM, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE15355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750403-1033
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751129/aaaaazaw.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST FASCISM
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IN, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006